GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1650
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
CONVERSION OF GURUDWARAS IN PAK
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any report to the effect that Pakistan has converted the Gurudwaras located there into Madarasas and residential premises for the Muslim families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sent any letter of protest to the Pakistan Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (d) Government are aware of the reports that Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan are not being maintained properly and their sanctity is not being preserved. Under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in September, 1974 it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government of Pakistan has been apprised of the complaints received from time to time regarding proper maintenance of the religious shrines and the preservation of their sanctity.